DECEMBER 7:--6:00 P.M.

Martial Law was declared according to a bulletin in the mess-hall. A Colonel Mueller is in charge at the moment. There will be no incoming or out-going mail. The bulletin said that schools will be open, but the Block Manager said that schools are closed. Something isn't clicking there.

DECEMBER 8:--11:00 A.M.

School is supposed to be running. This morning, I went to the Education Office. Only two of the office-workers were there at the time I was there. In the Community Services Division, no one was around. All offices were quiet.

The teachers were all at their respective classes yesterday (Monday). Today, they were at their posts again in the morning. It's rather hectic work since the Administration Mess-hall is not running, the teachers are helping with the work formerly done by the residents. Mrs. Lucy Adams, Regional Director of Education and Recreation, was helping with the waiting on tables. Everyone pitched in to help. Some of the male teachers helped with the dish-washing. After all the mess-hall work was finished, the teachers dashed to take charge of their classes.

Not very many students showed up for classes. In many cases, a group of people roamed around disturbing classes. Some teachers were locked in their rooms. Foul words were said to a few teachers. Finally, Dr. Genevieve Carter, Superintendent of Education, called all the teachers away from the classes. This was the end of school for the time being.

This ~~m~~morning, I found out from my father that the blacklist made up by the band of ruffians now in practical control of the residents of Manzanar consists of about seventy names. It seems that I am included on that list. My father found that out from a fairly reliable source, so both of my parents are worried. The people named on the blacklist have a very good chance of being beaten up. As in some ~~xxx~~ other countries, terrorism rules here.

DECEMBER 8:--12:30 P.M.

According to an announcement made at the mess-hall during lunch, no work will be allowed to run except certain designated ones. There will be no school and no offices will be open. All block residents were told to wear something black on their clothing. The males must wear a black band and the others must wear black ribbons. It is supposed to denote mourning for the people who were killed and wounded that Saturday night. Previous, all block residents were urged to stay near their homes.

DECEMBER 8:--8:00 P.M.

Black bands and ribbons were distributed to each apartment in the block. I wear my band only for my own protection. I have no desire to tangle with a mob. Since I am already on a black-list, there doesn't seem to be any point in further aggravating the situation over such a small matter as the wearing of black.

DECEMBER 9:--

Upon the urging of my parents, I have packed my suitcase in order that I may be ready to leave if and when the soldiers come after me. It seems that many people have been rounded up by the soldiers for questioning and for protective custody. According to my mother, about fifty people have been taken out of Manzanar.

This evening, mail dating to before December 6 was distributed. As yet, there has been no announcement as to the fact that mail will be allowed to go out of Manzanar.

DECEMBER 10:--

Today, I heard a rumor to the effect that out-going mail will be allowed if the letters are taken to the Post-Office.

A story which seems to be authentic which is now going around is that a group of three girls talking to each other was the target of some soldiers' bullets. Apparently, the soldiers wanted to frighten the girls since no one was hurt.

DECEMBER 11:--

All persons were notified to eat at their own mess-halls. There seems to be some sort of food shortage.

Today, I was warned not to post my letters since there is supposed to be censorship (that was a reason given to me). The mail box (about a mile away) is being carefully watched and people posting letters will be seen and be beaten up in all probability. The latter part is not a surmise actually since that was the warning given to me.

I have learned that a delegation os six residents who went to the administration to try to negotiate some sort of settlement did not return. They were apprehended and put under guard. A second group has not been set up as yet. However, there was a little talk of sending "representatives" until half the camp is taken. That is foolish because such a move can never come about.

It is quiet now--on the surface--like the calm which precedes a storm. At present, it isn't safe to talk, write, walk around, go out at night, typewrite (because people might assume that a person so doing is writing a report), or even THINK! It's dangerous to do anything. Rule is by violence. One never knows who the next person to be attacked will be. The only safe thing to do is to be quite and docile. We still have not worked at our jobs. What will await anyone who works is made rather evident.

John Sonoda, who was beaten up by a gang because he was thought to be an informer of some type, was not killed as formerly rumored. He is expected to recover; however, he will not be entirely sane again. He used to be rather intelligent. Prior to evacuation, he worked as a bookkepper.

DECEMBER 12:--

Yesterday, at supper-time, it was announced that another of the gun-shot victims died at 8:00 a.m.

A couple of days ago, probably around December 8 or 9, all of the teachers were evacuated from Manzanar. They are now living in

Lone Pine and in Independence.

This morning, a notice was put up in the mess-hall. It was without a signature. In very good English (as is not the case with the previous notices put up recently), it tried to state reasons for the conflict now. It appeared to be flagrantly untrue, but if people believed it all (and most people will, no doubt), the Government is all wrong in all it has done. Now, according to that notice, one of the issues is that Ueno (the man who was taken in custody for attacking Tayama) was so persecuted by the officials because he is supposed to have some information which would prove that one of the Caucasians worked some graft with the sugar supply at Manzanar. Ueno is also supposed to have other "proofs."

Another issue (undoubtedly, people stay up nights trying to justify the no-work policy) is the idea of the people who were interned in camps. This notice accuses the Government of placing FBI informers in W.R.A. camps. It is felt that these informers were responsible entirely for the fact that persons were hauled away from their homes and jailed at the outbreak of the war. It is felt that all (according to my interpretation of the notice--I read it through only twice) of the internees were placed in concentration camps without proof of guilt. All blame is placed on the FBI informers for the fact that this outbreak arose. The notice also stated that if the informers were not placed in the centers, such a thing would not have happened.

"Baloney!" I say. This thing has been brewing for a heck of a long time and almost anything could have set off this business.

In regard to the case of the internees, the group responsibles for putting up the notice want unconditional releases for all the internees!

This evening, another notice was put up (this again in very good English) appealing to all Nisei--to all Japanese descendants. It urged all such persons not to seek to relocate outside of Manzanar until everything is settled. It tried to appeal to the sense of loyalty towards the fellow people. It said that all of the people in America must see the situation "as we see it."

*The group responsible--the following will serve to give some sort of background to the situation. I am starting about the time two months ago, but it must not be assumed that the trouble began to brew then. Actually, trouble in general dated back to about the latter part of May, 1942. This was the month that the last mass group of evacuees arrived at Manzanar. Even at this time, unrest was to be discernable, but only to those who looked a little below the surface appearances. FBI "stool-pigeons" were suspected. The Project Director was not trusted. Bitterness and disillusionment had struck the people in a passive state.

About three months ago (September), a Community Charter Commission of seventeen people was appointed by Mr. Roy Nash, then the Project Director. The method of the appointment was as follows:

At a Block Leaders' Meeting (each block in Manzanar--36 in all--elected one person to represent the block in all matters. This was a Block Leader) where all block leaders gathered once a week to discuss problems and work out solutions, it was announced that a Charter Commission would be formed. Each Block Leader was given a chance to name some people who he felt was capable of serving on such a committee as a formulate a Community Charter.

Approximately 70 names were submitted--many names suggested by more than one Block Leader. The names were ranked in order by the frequency each name was mentioned. Mr. Nash then formally appointed the top seventeen people on that list. According to the administration, this was done to facilitate matters.

The seventeen members got busy and with constant referring to Administrative Bulletins and orders from Washington D.C. on certain policies already set, a Charter was drafted. It stipulated that a Community Council would be formed and then delegated certain powers to it.

Finally, the Charter was completed. A copy in English and one in Japanese was distributed to e ach apartment in Manzanar. A date, November 9, 1942, was set when the people would have an opportunity to either accept or reject the Charter. If the people accepted this means of "self-government" (a misnomer to which almost everyone objected), the Charter would be put into operation immediately. If the people rejected the Charter, a new one would be drafted and put before the people. What everyone did not know is that the Project Director has the authority to force the people to accept the Charter if necessary--vote or no vote.

About a month before November 9, posters were placed on all mess-halls denouncing "self-government." It was signed the "Blood Brothers"--thus translated from the Japanese language. The notice was printed in Japanese entirely. It was rather vicious in tone. The Internal Police tore the notices down from all of the mess-halls before noon. A slight attempt to trace the "Blood-Brothers" was made but soon abandoned.

About two weeks prior to November 9, each of the Commission members received at least one threatening note from the "Blood-Brothers." These notes were very out-spoken. Again, efforts made to trace these persons were proven to be futile. No publicity of this was given.

Immediately, a Commissioners' Meeting was called. It was brought out at that time that the Commission members were intending to resign since the Charter was already completed, but in view of the fact that the threatening letters had demanded their resignation, some of the Commissioners felt that such action would look as though they were quitting under fire. However, it finally ended by the Commissioners deciding to resign. Prior to resigning, it was decided that the November 9 deadline for voting acceptance or rejection should be postpone until November 30. This was done to allow time for the people to find out what the Charter contained. Also, by that time, it was felt that the majority of the beet-field workers would return.

After the Charter Commissioners resigned, it seemed that many of Issei and Kibei were still disgruntled about the whole situation. They did not care for the manner in which the Commissioners were appointed. (the method was not made public). They did not care for certain rulings embodied in the Charter. The Administration decided that a new Commission should be formed, two representatives from each of the thirty-five blocks, by open elections in each block. The November 30 voting date was disregarded.

Example of how the "election" of the two representative was held in Block #32 (my block)

Two nights before the "election", a block meeting was called to show the block members various fire-fighting apparatus and to discuss the Charter. Most of the Nisei knew something about hand-pumps, soda and acid extinguishers, etc, and most of the Nisei read the Charter if they were in the least interested in it. In addition, there were night classes going on. Because of those reasons, all of the Nisei except one stayed away from that meeting. There were about 30 to 40 Issei and Kibei at that meeting and only one Nisei--myself.

The meeting was conducted solely in Japanese. I caught the gist of the discussion, but, of course, not all of it. First, the fire-fighting equipment was displayed and explained. Then, the speaker, a Kibei fireman, explained what the block residents should do in case a fire started in the block. Then, discussion revolved around the nominating of people for the election two days hence. Two people were nominated--both Kibei. This was really against the rules since the election was supposed to be an Open Election with anyone over 18 eligible to vote or be elected.

On the day of the election, I was surprised to discover that no one had voted. By then, it was the last half-hour of the polls being open. Then, I found out that some people were not allowed to vote. Then it came out. Two nights previously, what I had thought was merely the nomination was in reality an appointment "by the will of the people." A farce was being perpetrated!

Since such an idea was not acceptable to a couple of us, we protested. At first, our protests were of no avail, but finally, a new election was called. Ballots were taken to each apartment and filled out while the person distributing the ballots waited for them at the door. This was the first time that I had ever seen an election run off in such a manner. The end result was that the two Kibei boys were elected. Democracy in Action!

All of the New Commissioners who were elected met with the new Project Director, Mr. Ralph Merritt. The meeting dragged on and nothing was accomplished except that it was decided that final discussion would be tabled. Many of the people were outspokenly and vehemently against any type of self-government.

Some of the underlying thoughts which were expressed are:

"Since the army (and/or government) put us here, why can't it run us?"

"We've gotten along all right so far without self-government, why should we have it now?"

"What's wrong with the present set-up?"

"How can we have self-government in a place surrounded by barb-wired fences?"

The majority of the new Commissioners were Issei and Kibei. Only a very few were Nisei. Of the fifty-five Commissioners present, only about four or five were Nisei. This meeting was held on Thursday, December 3. The disturbance occured Saturday, December 6. No doubt, minions of the "Blood-Brothers" were spotted among the new Commission.

The term "Blood-Brother" has been discarded now, I believe. The new name of the organization is "The Black Dragon."

DECEMBER 13:--

Today, I learned that the school teachers are now working in the Administration Building. Many of them have returned from Lone Pine and Independence and are again living on the Project. Apparently, schools will be closed until the beginning of January.

From a fairly reliable source, I have become cognizant of the following: Project Director Merritt feels that the residents of Manzanar do not want to return to work. He has decided to hire Caucasians to work in essential jobs unless the residents return to their places. If Caucasians are hired, the evacuees will not be permitted to work at all. That means that the evacuees will not receive any income.

Up to this date, Mr. Merritt has not issued any statement to the above effect, but he expects the people to go back to work without such a notice. He seems to have one point of view; the dominating society has another; the residents have none. Everything is not running smoothly between the Administration and the residents. One does not know what or how the other is thinking. There is no coordination or attempts at it anywhere.

From the same source, I learned that not all of the people shot on December 6 were shot in the back. One of the High School teachers who had gone to the Hospital to inquire about those who were shot was told by the doctors that there the statement that all victims were shot in the back was false.

DECEMBER 14:--

At noon today, an announcement was made during lunch that Mr. Merritt and Captain Hall of the Military Police would meet with representatives of the people of Manzanar. The group to meet them was supposed to be composed of three representatives from each block. After the announcement was made, the speaker said that the three "representatives" were already chosen. Without mentioning the names of the people, he asked whether the choice was acceptable to the block residents. Many people acquiesced. Then, the names were disclosed--all Kibei. There was a general applause, so that settled that. In order to forestall any dissension, the speaker asked whether the people wanted any substitutions for the representatives. No one spoke.

The meeting is scheduled for this afternoon.